

What is claimed is:

1. A method for indexing feature vector data space

comprising the step of:

(a) adaptively approximating feature vectors on the basis of
statistical distribution of feature vector data in the feature vector data
5 space.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (a) further

comprises the steps of:

(a-1) measuring the statistical distribution of the feature vector
data in the feature vector data space;

5 (a-2) estimating marginal distribution of the feature vector data
using the statistical distribution;

(a-3) dividing the estimated marginal distribution into a plurality
of grids in which a probability of disposing the feature vector data in
each grid is uniform; and

10 (a-4) indexing the feature vector data space using the divided
grids.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising prior to step (a-
4), the step of updating the grids on the basis of a previous probability
distribution function and an updated probability distribution function,
when new data is received.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein step (a-4) further comprises indexing using vector approximation (VA) files.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein a number of the plurality of grids is determined by a number of bits assigned to the dimension.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein step (a-2) further comprises the steps of:

(a-2-1) defining a probability distribution function using a weighted sum of a predetermined distribution function; and

5 (a-2-2) obtaining an estimated probability distribution function by estimating predetermined parameters using the probability distribution function defined in the step (a-2-1).

7. The method of claim 6, wherein step (a-2-2) further comprises obtaining the estimated probability distribution function by estimating the predetermined parameters using all N predetermined data in each estimation, wherein N is a positive integer, on the basis of
5 an expectation-maximization algorithm using the probability distribution function defined in the step (a-2-1).

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined distribution function is the Gaussian function.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the probability distribution function of step (a-2-1) is a one-dimensional signal, $p(x)$, wherein

$$p(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N p(x|j)P(j), \text{ and wherein } p(x|j) \text{ is defined as}$$

$$p(x|j) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_j^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x - \mu_j)^2}{2\sigma_j^2}\right\},$$

5 wherein coefficient $P(j)$ is a mixing parameter that satisfies the

following criterion $0 \leq P(j) \leq 1$ and $\sum_{j=1}^M P(j) = 1$.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the estimated probability distribution function of step (a-2-2) is obtained by finding $\Phi_j, j=1, \dots, M$,

which maximizes $\Phi(\Phi_1, \dots, \Phi_M) = \prod_{l=1}^N P(v[l] | (\Phi_1, \dots, \Phi_M))$, where

parameters $v[l], l=1, \dots, N$, is a given data set.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the estimated parameters of step (a-2-2) are updated according to the following

equations
$$\mu_j^{t+1} = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^N p(j|v[l])^t v[l]}{\sum_{l=1}^N p(j|v[l])^t},$$

$$(\sigma_j^2)^{t+1} = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^N p(j|v[l])^t (v[l] - \mu_j^t)^2}{\sum_{l=1}^N p(j|v[l])^t}, \text{ and}$$

5
$$P(j)^{t+1} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N P(j|v[l])^t, \text{ wherein } t \text{ is a positive integer}$$

representing a number of iterations.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the estimated parameter set of step (a-2-2) using N data $v[l]$ is given as $\{P(j)^N, \mu_j^N, (\sigma_j^2)^N\}$, and the updated parameter set for new data $v[N+1]$, coming in, is calculating using the following equations:

5
$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j^{N+1} &= \mu_j^N + \theta_j^{N+1} (v[N+1] - \mu_j^N), \\ (\sigma_j^2)^{N+1} &= (\sigma_j^2)^N + \theta_j^{N+1} [(v[N+1] - \mu_j^N)^2 - (\sigma_j^2)^N], \\ P(j)^{N+1} &= P(j)^N + \frac{1}{N+1} (P(j|v[N+1]) - P(j)^N), \text{ and} \\ (\theta_j^{N+1})^{-1} &= \frac{P(j|v[N])}{P(j|v[N+1])} (\theta_j^N)^{-1} + 1. \end{aligned}$$

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step (a-2-2) further comprises:

measuring a change of a probability distribution function which is

defined as
$$\rho = \frac{\int (\hat{p}_{old}(x) - \hat{p}_{new}(x))^2 dx}{\int \hat{p}_{old}(x)^2 dx}$$
 for each dimension, wherein a

- 5 previous probability distribution function is $\hat{P}_{old}(x)$, and an updated probability distribution function is $\hat{P}_{new}(x)$; and

updating an approximation for the dimension if ρ is larger than a predetermined threshold value.

14. The method of claim 2, wherein step (a-3) further comprises dividing a probability distribution function into the plurality of grids to make areas covered by each grid equal, wherein the plurality of grids have boundary points defined by $c[l]$, $l = 0, \dots, 2^b$, where b is a
- 5 number of bits allocated and wherein the boundary points satisfy a criterion, $\int_{c[l]}^{c[l+1]} \hat{p}(x) dx = \frac{1}{2^b} \int_{c[0]}^{c[2^b]} \hat{p}(x) dx$, and wherein the estimated probability distribution function is $\hat{p}(x)$.